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Title: Regarding including fishermen in the list of Schedule Tribes.

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL): Coastline of Tamil Nadu is 1,076 km. long and is the second longest coastline in the country after Gujarat. This coastline is shared by 13 districts namely Thiruvallur, Chennai, Kanchipuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari.

Tamil Nadu has fishermen population of approximately 1.05 million. They have distinct customs and lifestyle and eke out a meager livelihood from their traditional occupation. Though they are enterprising, most of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu are very poor both in terms of social and economic status. They require the support of the Government for their upliftment. It would be of great help to the fishermen of Tamil Nadu if they are included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu hon. *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has already taken up the issue with the Centre. In the interest of the poor and deserving fishermen community of Tamil Nadu, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to include them in the list of Scheduled Tribes.